

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 5, replace the paragraph at lines 26-30 and page 6 at lines 1-4 with the following:

Referring to Figs. 3, 3B, 3C and 3D, clips 32 are secured near respective sides of housing 20 and inside side walls 34. Each clip 32 passes through a pair of slots 40 and 42 (Fig. 4) located between front edge 44 and rear edge 46 of the blade unit 16 (see also Fig. 4). Preferably, clips 32 are formed of 5052 – H16 Aluminum and are about 0.3 mm thick. As will be described in greater detail below, by locating the clips 32 in-board of the front and rear edges 44, 46 of blade unit 16, the clips interfere less with certain shaving features of the razor 10. Additionally, by threading the clips 32 through slots 40 and 42 in the housing 20 and bending legs 50 and 52 (see Fig. 5) to a desired curvature, the clips 32 may be very securely mounted on the housing 20.

At page 8, replace the paragraph at lines 26-31 and page 9 at lines 1-3 with the following:

Referring to Figs. 8-~~11~~ 12, blade 28 is connected to platform portion 406 by thirteen spot welds 410 applied by a laser that melts the metal of blade 28 at the weld area WA to create molten metal, which forms the weld 410 to platform portion 406 upon cooling. The weld area WA is an area of attachment at which the blade is secured to the platform portion. The weld area WA is located within a flat portion FP of platform portion 406. The blade length LB from cutting edge 408 to blade end 450 is less than 1mm, preferably less than 0.9 mm, and most preferably about 0.85 mm. Blade 28 has a uniform thickness portion 412 that is supported on platform portion 406 and a tapered portion 412 that extends beyond the front end 452 of platform portion 406.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring back to Fig. 3, guard 22 includes a flexible elastomeric member 100 that extends to and over side surfaces 34. The elastomeric member 100 forms a projection 101 that is capable of mating with a dispenser (not shown) to secure the cartridge therein (e.g., for storage and/or shipping). Details of the projection 101 and dispenser can be found in pending U.S. Application [[_____]] Serial Number 10/798,140, entitled "Dispensers for Razor Blade Cartridges" and filed on the same date as this application, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. The elastomeric member 100 includes a plurality of fins 114, discussed in detail below, that tend to stimulate and stretch the skin in front of the blades 28, lifting and properly positioning the user's hairs for shaving.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring back to Fig. 23, tips 120 of the elastomeric fins 114 increase in elevation from the fin furthest from the blades 28 to the fin closest to the blades 28 along a curve. Some of the tips 120 lie below a plane 122 that passes through the cutting edges 48 of the blades 28 and some of the tips 120 are above the plane 122. The increasing elevation of fins 114 tends to gradually increase skin contact. The increasing elevation also causes the tips to conform to the skin during shaving. Fins 114 have a tip to base height "h" of 0.4 to 0.9 mm and a narrow profile, i.e., the fins define an included angle β of less than about 14 degrees (preferably between 8 and about 14 ~~and 8~~ degrees, such as about 11 degrees). The fins 114 are spaced at a pitch of between about 0.014 and 0.57 mm center-to-center, e.g., 0.284 mm, and are between about 0.1 and 0.4 mm, e.g., 0.217 mm, thick at their bases. The distance from the front of one fin 114a to the back of the last fin 114b at the base is about 4 mm. Alternatively, this distance can be between about 2.5 and 6 mm. The narrow, e.g., 8 to 14 degree fin profile β improves fin flexibility, which helps stretch the skin, thereby setting up the hairs for improved cutting.